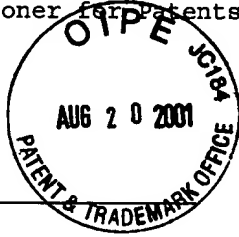


Certificate of Mailing [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Denise Ortega

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bruce M. Bowman

Group: 1600

Serial No.: 09/480,389

Group Art Unit: 1642

Filed : January 11, 2000

Examiner: A. Holleran

For : Immunoassays to Detect Diseases or Disease
Susceptibility Traits

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO SECOND
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND REQUEST FOR
PROVISIONAL ELECTION OF SPECIES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) on July 17, 2001 with a one-month shortened statutory period for response.

Preliminary to the further examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the claims as indicated below.